Message Text

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PAGE 01 MEXICO 09951 040100Z

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ACTION SCSE-00

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 ISO-00 DHA-02 L-03 H-02 SSO-00 /018 W $\,$

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O 040002Z AUG 76 ZFF-4 FM AMEMBASSY MEXICO TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6562

UNCLAS MEXICO 9951

E.O. 11652: N/A TAGS: CASC, MX

SUBJ: TRANSFER OF PRISONERS FROM LECUMBERRI PRISON, MEXICO CITY

- 1. EMBASSY INFORMED BY MEXICAN PRISON AUTHORITIES THAT WITHIN NEXT TWO WEEKS LECUMBERRI PRISONERS TO BE MOVED TO TWO NEW CARCELES PREVENTIVAS AND TO SANTA MARTA PRISON (LECUMBERRI WILL BE CLOSED DOWN AND THE EXISTING BUILDINGS RAIZED TO CLEAR AREA FOR A NEW ALAMEDA, ACCORDING TO PRESS REPORTS).
- 2. THOSE PRISONERS WHO HAVE BEEN SENTENCED
 AND HAVE NO APPEALS PENDING WILL BE TRANSFERRED TO
 SANTA MARTA. OTHERS WILL BE TRANSFERRED TO ONE OR
 OTHER OF NEW PRISONS ACCORDING TO WHICH COURT HAS
 JURISDICTION IN INDIVIDUAL CASES. THOSE IN FUERO COMUN
 COURTS 1-15 AND THOSE IN DISTRICT COURTS 1 AND 2
 WILL BE SENT TO PRISON IN NORTHERN PART OF CITY. THOSE
 IN FUERO COMUN COURTS 16-26 AND DISTRICT COURTS 3 AND 4
 WILL BE SENT TO PRISON IN SOUTHEASTERN PART OF CITY.
 AS NEW PRISONS ARE PREVENTIVAS AND THUS A SUBSTITUTE
 FOR LECUMBERRI BUT NOT FOR SANTA MARTA, ALL SENTENCED
 PRISONERS WILL EVENTUALLY BE SENT TO SANTA MARTA.
 EMBASSY HAS NOT YET IDENTIFIED WHICH AMERICAN PRISONERS
 WILL BE ASSIGNED TO WHICH PRISON, BUT WILL REPORT
 THIS INFORMATION AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.
- 3. SOME FEW BELONGINGS NOW HELD BY LECUMBERRI PRISONERS WILL NOT BE ALLOWED IN NEW PRISONS (PRISON DIRECTOR CITED AS EXAMPLES ELECTRICAL APPLIANCES, UNCLASSIFIED

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PAGE 02 MEXICO 09951 040100Z

TELEVISION SETS, AND VERY BULKY ITEMS SUCH AS FURNITURE).

IN ORDER TO PREVENT HARDSHIP THAT WOULD BE CAUSED PRISONERS BY FORCED SALE OF POSSESSIONS, EMBASSY ARRANGED WITH DIRECTOR TO TAKE CUSTODY OF ITEMS NOT ALLOWED IN NEW PRISONS. CONOFF WENT TO LECUMBERRI ON AUGUST 2 WITH TWO TRUCKS AND COLLECTED BELONGINGS FOR STORAGE IN EMBASSY. CONOFF HAD GONE TO PRISON ON JULY 30 AND TOLD AMERICAN-PRISONER REPRESENTATIVE OF EACH DORMITORY TO TELL AMERICAN PRISONERS TO HAVE BELONGINGS READY ON AUGUST 2. EMBASSY PLANS TO STORE BELONGINS ONLY UNTIL WE RECEIVE PRISONER AUTHORIZATION RE DISPOSITION. JOVA

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